

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 23-30 and 32. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the remaining claims in view of the following comments.

In the Office Action dated January 7, 2009, pending claims 13-32 were examined. Claims 23-30 and 32 were allowed, and claims 13-22 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 17, 19, and 20. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the reasons set forth below.

Section 112 Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 13-22 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have canceled dependent claims 17, 19, and 20 without prejudice, rendering the rejections of those claims moot.

Applicants have amended claims 14, 16, and 31 to depend from independent claim 23 and have amended claim 22 to depend from independent claim 13. Pursuant to the telephone conference with the Examiner on March 24, 2009, Applicants believe that the amendments to the claims are sufficient to overcome the Section 112 rejections. Additionally, the amendments to the claims are supported by the application and the Supplemental Declaration of Russell E. Evans, Thomas A. Balch and Nancy L. S. Yamasaki Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 filed on September 29, 2008.

Accordingly, the rejections of claims 13-16, 18, 21, 22, and 31 are moot.

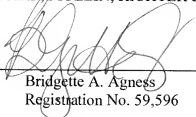
Conclusion

This application should now be in condition for a favorable action. Issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone

conference with Applicants' undersigned attorney of record might expedite the prosecution of this application, he is invited to call at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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